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### 3. IMAGE PROCESSING UNIT AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

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**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To enhance efficiency of data processing of an image processing unit by allowing the image processing unit to check a level of a video signal so as to discriminate whether or not a monitor is connected to the processing unit, applying expansion processing to image data for a display purpose, displaying the processed image data onto the monitor when the discrimination indicates the connection of the monitor and executing a processing on the basis of an instruction when the discrimination indicates no connection of the monitor.

**SOLUTION:** An electrophotographic image expansion means applies image expansion processing to an electrophotographic image and a layout template. A display means displays the electrophotographic image or contents of the template with the electrophotographic image pasted thereto onto an external monitor such as a television receiver through a video signal cable 190 interconnecting a processing unit main body section 100 and the external monitor 200 such as a television receiver when receiving a display instruction from a display execution instruction means. A monitor connection discrimination means checks the level of a video signal supplied through the video signal cable 190 so as to discriminate whether or not the external monitor 200 such as a television receiver is connected to the processing unit. The electrophotographic image expansion means conducts the image expansion processing only when the discrimination indicates the connection of the monitor.

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